

Message Text

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71

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15

AGRE-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 /079 W

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O P 302230Z NOV 76

FM AMCONSUL MAZATLAN

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0984

UNCLAS MAZATLAN 0503

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, PINT, ARA

SUBJ: ON-SITE REPORT, SINALOA LAND PROBLEMS

1. ALONG A SIZEABLE STRETCH OF THE INTERNATIONAL HIGHWAY BETWEEN LOS MOCHIS AND CULIACAN CONSUL MATTHEWS OBSERVED PLANTED AND UNPLANTED LAND FESTOONED WITH CAMPESINOS IN THEIR TEMPORARY SHELTERS WITH BANNERS PROCLAIMING THAT THE AMPAROS ARE UNJUSTS, THAT UNLESS THE LAND IS SURRENDERED TODAY, THEY WILL TAKE IT BY FORCE TOMORROW DECEMBER 1.

SEQUESTERED FARM MACHINERY STOOD IDLY BY THE ENCAMPMENTS, THUS PREVENTING THE LAND OWNERS FROM PLANTING OR HARVESTING THEIR CROPS. CAMPESINOS FEAR THAT SUPPORT FOR THEIR CAUSE WILL BE LOST WITH THE DEPARTURE OF PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA. LAND OWNERS HAVE CONFIRMED DECEMBER 1 IS D-DAY FOR CAMPESINOS.

2. CULIACAN LAND OWNER TOLD CONSUL THAT ALL AREA LAND OWNERS HAD AGREED DONATE 25 PER CENT OF IRRIGATED LAND AND LESSER QUANTITY UNIRRIGATED TO CAMPESINOS WHO HAVE REPORTEDLY ACCEPTED OFFER.

COMMENT: THROWING THE BONE TO THE DOG CAN ONLY SERVE AS TRUCE TO AVERT IMPENDING VIOLENCE AND DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE CAMPESINOS MAKING FURTHER AND GREATER DEMAND.

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3. CONSUL'S CONTACT REPORTED ALL LAND OWNERS WOULD EVENTUALLY BE LIMITED TO TOTAL LAND RETENTION OF 1,000 HECTAREAS PER FAMILY; THAT LAND SURPLUS REMAINING AFTER CAMPESINO DONATION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO FORCE LAND SALE.

4. CONSUL'S CONTACT ADVISED THAT UNLESS PROBLEM SETTLES TODAY, ROAD BLOCKS WOULD BE SET UP BY CAMPESINOS BEFORE NIGHT FALL.

5. WILL UPDATE AS NECESSARY.
MATTHEWS

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